IN THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims in the present application.

Claims 1-30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) A method of providing a broadband conferencing service, comprising:

establishing a voice channel configured to facilitate voice communication between a called party and a calling party over a telephony network in response to receiving a telephone call from the calling party at the telephony network;

determining a configuration of customer premise equipment for the calling party and customer premise equipment for the called party; and

automatically establishing a separate, parallel virtual data channel to facilitate a data communication between the called party and the calling party over a packet data network in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephony network, when the configuration of customer premise equipment for the calling party is compatible with the configuration of customer premise equipment for the called party;

wherein a voice communication between the called party and the calling party is carried over the voice channel of the telephony network and the data communication between the called party and the calling party is carried over the separate virtual data channel of the packet data network.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

launching an application over the virtual data channel, the application capable of interacting with both the calling party and the called party.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

the calling party sending data to the called party over the virtual data channel.

34. (New) The method of claim 31,

wherein the determining the configuration of the calling party's customer premise equipment and the called party's customer premise equipment comprise interrogating a database having configuration information to determine whether the calling party's and called party's customer premise equipments have compatible broadband access capabilities.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

establishing a voice channel and a virtual data channel with at least one additional party, wherein the voice channel is established over the telephony network and the virtual channel is established over the packet data network.

36. (New) A method of providing a broadband conferencing service, comprising:

receiving a telephone call from a calling party at a telephony network;

establishing a voice channel over the telephony network wherein the voice channel is configured to facilitate a voice communication between a called party and the calling party;

automatically establishing a virtual data channel to facilitate a data communication between the called party and the calling party on a packet data network in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephone network, after the voice conversation begins over the voice channel, wherein automatically establishing a virtual data channel further comprises:

establishing the virtual data channel between the calling party and the called party when a configuration of customer premise equipment customer premise equipment for the calling party is compatible with a configuration of customer premise equipment for the called party;

wherein the voice channel and the virtual data channel operate in parallel to provide a synchronized voice and data transmission between the calling party and the called party.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

launching an application over the virtual data channel between the calling party and the called party, the application capable of interacting with both the calling and called parties.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

transmitting video signals over the virtual data channel in parallel with transmitting a voice conversation over the voice channel.

39. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

establishing the voice channel and the virtual data channel with at least one additional party, wherein the voice channel is established over the telephony network and the virtual data channel is established over the data network.

40. (New) A method of providing broadband access services, comprising:

establishing, over a telephony network via a subscriber loop in communication with the telephony network, a voice channel configured to facilitate a voice communication from a calling party to a called party, in response to receiving a telephone call from the calling party over the subscriber loop;

automatically, in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephone network, determining a data address for the calling party on a data network and a data address for a called party on the data network;

determining whether a configuration of customer premise equipment customer premise equipment for the calling party is compatible with a configuration of customer premise equipment for the called party; and

establishing a virtual data channel to facilitate a data communication from the calling party to the called party over the data network via the subscriber loop when the configuration of customer premise equipment for the calling party is compatible with a configuration of customer premise equipment for the called party;

wherein the voice channel carries the voice communication and the virtual data channel carries the data communication concurrently over the subscriber loop.

41. (New) The method of claim 40,

wherein the data address for the called party and the data address for the calling party comprise internet protocol IP addresses.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

the calling party transmitting data over the virtual data channel using an asynchronous transfer mode ATM transmission protocol.

43. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

adding an additional party to the voice and data communication between the calling party and the called party.

44. (New) The method of claim 43,

wherein adding the additional party comprises:

connecting the additional party to the virtual data channel by transmitting a data address for the additional party to each of the calling and called parties and transmitting the data addresses of the calling and called parties to the additional party,

wherein all parties share information over the virtual data channel concurrently with communications over the voice channel.